

Reconnaissance Survey of Above Ground Resources

Summary of Technical Memorandum

Purpose and Scope of Investigation

Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc. (CCRG) was contracted by Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers of Michigan, Inc. (CTE Engineers) to complete a reconnaissance-level survey of above-ground resources in support of plans to improve US-131 in St. Joseph County, Michigan. The purpose of the survey was to comply with the requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1996, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), the Section 106 implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) as it pertains to all federally licensed or funded agencies. The purpose of this study is to identify historic resources within the project area and to make preliminary determinations for their potential for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Description of the Proposed Undertaking

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) proposes to improve the existing US-131 highway from the Indiana State Line to one mile north of Cowling Road (**Appendix E**). Portions of five St. Joseph County townships are included within the survey corridor, including Lockport, Fabius, Constantine, White Pigeon, and Mottville. The survey also included portions of the incorporated communities of Three Rivers, Constantine, and White Pigeon.

The area of potential effect (APE) was defined in consultation with MDOT and CTE and is generally equivalent to the overall project study area. In rural areas, the APE included those properties within 0.25 miles (0.40km) of the Practical Alternatives, but did not extend east of existing US-131. In other words, properties falling within the APE and adjoining existing US-131 were considered as part of this project. North of M-60, the APE included areas east of existing US-131, but west of the Penn Central Railroad grade. Within urban areas (e.g., Constantine), the APE was limited to properties adjoining existing US-131. The APE is approximately 19.5 mi (31.5 km) long and ranges from 1.0 mi to 2.0 mi (1.6 km to 3.2 km) wide.

Survey Results and Reporting

A total of 262 above-ground properties were identified during a reconnaissance-level survey of the US-131 project area that were 50 years old or greater (over 600 structures were inventoried). This includes five properties that are listed on the NRHP and three properties that are listed on the State Register of Historic Sites (SRHS). Thus, CCRG identified 254 previously undocumented historic properties within the APE. Of these, 43 were determined to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register based on architectural characteristics or historical associations. CCRG recommends further work for each of these properties to fully determine their NRHP eligibility. However, only certain properties may be affected by the proposed alternatives currently under consideration. In consultation with MDOT, SHPO, and CTE Engineers, it has been determined that two National Register sites (the Wahbememe Memorial and the Constantine Historic District) and 15 potentially significant properties may be affected by one or more of the proposed alternatives. These properties include: 14558 Indian Prairie Road, 14870 Indian Prairie Road, and 101 N. US-131 in White Pigeon, 200 Locust Road, 484 N. Washington, 14760 Millers Mill Road, 13577 Quarterline Road, 63941 US-131, 63280 US-131, 63000 US-131, 62501 US-131, and 62249 US-131 in Constantine, and 15352 Gleason

Road, 15303 W. Broadway, and 59019 US-131 in Three Rivers. The intensive level recordation of these properties is addressed in a separate report (Robinson 2002).